NICK FURY, AGENT OF...
S.H.I.E.L.D.
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
MARVEL COMICS GROUP
12¢ IND.
1 JUNE
MCG
STERANKO
WHO IS SCORPIO

Gigantic Art Mural Offer!

WHITE STALLION IN THE MOONLIGHT — Luman Winter

Magnificent Original Oil Painting Reproduced In Full Color As Giant Decorator Mural

BRINGS DRAMATIC NEW BEAUTY TO YOUR HOME

Giant panoramic murals are the latest decorator rage, bringing new drama and beauty to your home. This incredibly magnificent painting of the white stallion standing majestically in the luminous moonlight creates a feeling of depth and sweep that is breathtaking. More than a huge six square feet in overall size, this superb mural brings to your home the ideal proportions of the new "picture window" panoramas that are sweeping the country!

Unfortunately, it is simply impossible to show the full breadth of color and drama in this great mural from the small black and white picture here. Only when you actually see it can you fully appreciate its excitement and beauty.

OFFER WILL NOT BE REPEATED THIS SEASON

We urge you to order your giant mural now while the supply lasts. This superb, full color print is a sweeping 40" x 24", and we will send it to you for just $3.00 postpaid on full money back guarantee if you are not absolutely delighted with the new "window of beauty" it brings to your home. But hurry, order now. This offer will not be repeated.

COLONIAL STUDIOS, Dept. HM-5
20 Bank Street
White Plains, New York 10606

Please send me the Giant Mural White Stallion (40" x 24") in full color for just $3.00 postpaid (frame not included) on full money back guarantee if I am not delighted.

Enclosed is $.....

Name .....
(print clearly)

Address .....

City ..... State ..... Zip .....

☐ **SAVE! SPECIAL OFFER:** Order two giant murals for just $5 on same money back guarantee. Extra print makes an ideal gift.

STAN LEE *EDITOR* • JIM STERANKO *WRITER AND ILLUSTRATOR* • JOE SINNOTT *INKER* • SAM ROSEN *LETTERER*
HAVE TEAMED UP TO PRESENT THE FIRST SHIELD NOVEL-LENGTH EPIC OF UNFORGETTABLE SUSPENSE AND DRAMA!

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CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

Second chance for high school drop-outs to get a diploma

Now you can Finish High School at home

EARN A DIPLOMA IN YOUR SPARE TIME
WITHOUT LOSING A DAY'S PAY

QUALIFY FOR A BETTER JOB
HIGHER PAY • GREATER SECURITY

$75,000 extra income in a lifetime

U.S. Government figures show the average high school graduate earns $75,000 more than the non-graduate. Here's what you can do with the extra money:

Live in a home of your own in a fine neighborhood.

Drive a new car, provide other luxuries for your family.

Watch your savings account grow — enjoy real security.

HERE'S A NEW, easier way for anyone over 17 to finish high school at home — with just a few hours a week of spare-time study. You don't have to go back to school — school comes to you.

This new, streamlined program is offered by Academy for Home Study. It was planned especially for working men and women who need a diploma to get ahead and can't take time out to go back to classroom study. It offers these advantages:

- *Full Credit for Previous Schooling*
- *Simplified Lessons*
- *Very Little Writing*
- *True-False Multiple-Choice Tests*
- *Qualified Teachers*
- *Easy-to-Read Text Books*

A diploma means a lot today — in prestige and in cash, and in greater job opportunities—increased job security.

Get the Full Story—FREE

Send for Academy's FREE booklet. It tells you how you can finish high school at home. Low cost, easy terms. You will also receive *free* a valuable Government booklet with advice for drop-outs, and a self-scoring test of your general knowledge. You may discover you are much closer to completing high school than you imagined. Mail coupon below today. Academy, 425 South Dearborn, Chicago, Illinois 60605.

ACADEMY FOR HOME STUDY

425 S. Dearborn, Dept. 75-910, Chicago, Illinois 60605

Please rush FREE booklet on how to finish high school at home, also free Government booklet and self-scoring test. No obligation.

Name:.....Age.....

Address.....Apt. No.....County.....

City & State.....Zip No.....

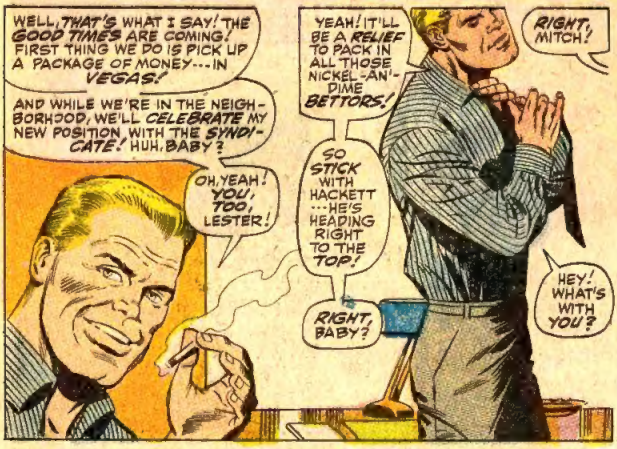
Accredited Member National Home Study Council

964

HEY, DUGAN! LOOKS LIKE THAT WRAPS UP YOUR THEORY! NO LMD'S* EVER GONNA REPLACE ANY REAL AGENTS IN THE FIELD!
GOTTA ADMIT, THOUGH, HE GOT ALL THE WAY INTO OUR LITTLE TRAP BEFORE I WIPED HIM OUT!
KINDA FUNNY FEELIN', THOUGH... SHOOTIN' YOURSELF, I MEAN!
AWRIGHT, DON'T BUST A GASKET! ALL I SAID WAS IT MIGHT WORK!
YOU SAID YOURSELF IT WAS A GOOD IDEA IF WE COULD USE LMD'S INSTEAD OF MEN!
THINK'A THE LIVES IT'D SAVE, MEBBE EVEN YOURS!
YEAH! I HEAR YA TALKIN', OL' TIMER!
SO LET'S GET BACK TO NEW YORK, GREAT WHITE HUNTER! YOUR SCORE'S PERFECT... GOT HIM DEAD CENTER FOUR TIMES!
*LIFE MODEL DECOY.
HUH! WADDA YA MEAN... FOUR TIMES!
I ONLY GOT OFF THREE ROUNDS! CAN'T YA COUNT?
A'COURSE I CAN AN' I'M TELLIN' YA THE SENSORS SHOW YA DRILLED HIM FOUR TIMES!
FOUR IT SAYS AND FOUR IT IS!
SO WHAT'S IT MATTER ANYWAY! THREE... FOUR.. YOU NAILED HIM GOOD! NOW, LET'S GET OUTTA HERE!
NOT SO FAST, PAL! WHILE WE WERE PLAYING THE SPY GAME... SOMEBODY ELSE'S BEEN PLAYIN' TOO!
THAT EXTRA BULLET HOLE IN THE LMD... SOMEONE THOUGHT IT WAS ME... FIRED AT THE SAME TIME I DID!
AN' WHILE WE BEEN STANDIN' HERE YAPPIN', THAT SOMEONE'S PUTTIN' DISTANCE BETWEEN US!
DON'T YA GET IT, DUGAN...? I JUST BEEN ASSASSINATED!
DO YA SUPPOSE THIS LITTLE DISK ON THE FLOOR'S GOT ANYTHING TA DO WITH IT?

AND, AS FURY CONTEMPLATES THE SINISTER OBJECT, THE SCENE SHIFTS TO THE WEST COAST...A SEAMY NIGHT CLUB IN SAN FRANCISCO...
LOOKIT THAT, WILLYA! THEY'RE LAUGHIN' AT THE BUM OUTTA PITY!
HE SHOULD GET AS MANY LAUGHS AS HE LOSES CUSTOMERS!
I SHOULDA BOUNCED HIM LAST WEEK... TROUBLE WITH ME IS, I GOT TOO BIG A HEART!
YEAH, SURE, PINKY! THE GUY'S GOT PROBLEMS! JUST HAD HIS CAR FIXED...COST OVER TWO HUNDRED!
I THINK HE GAVE THEM A BAD CHECK!
SO WHO AIN'T GOT... UH-OH! SPEAK'A THE DEVIL! THE WAY HE WALKS...
HE'S GONNA ASK ME FOR SOMETHIN'... I CAN FEEL IT!
HEY! HOW' BOUT THAT CROWD, PINKY! TOUGH...REAL TOUGH!
LOOK...AH..I HATE TO ASK YOU, BUT..I..I NEED ANOTHER ADVANCE ...SAY 'BOUT A COUPLA HUNDRED!
LISTEN, CREEP! YOU'RE INTO ME ALREADY FOR A BUNDLE!
NOW APPEARING
PINKY'S LOUNGE
Flip mason
SENSATIONAL HEBY COMIC
—plus—
GOGO REVUE
GIRLS! GIRLS! GIRLS!
YA BEEN GAMBLIN' AGAIN, HUH? NOW YA CAN'T PAY UP, HUH..?
YOU'RE A LOSER, CREEP...ALWAYS BE A LOSER!
PLEASE, PINKY, PLEASE! THEY'LL GET ME...
AN' TONIGHT MIGHT BE THE NIGHT, FUNNY MAN! TWO GUYS IN THE BACK BEEN WATCHIN' YA ALL NIGHT. I WANT NO BEEFS IN MY PLACE...Y'HEAR?
EULP!= HACKETT'S GOONS...THEY'RE HERE! TOLD 'EM I'D GET THE CASH!
GOTTA GET OUT OF HERE! B-BUT...THEY'LL GET ME AT HOME...NO! MARGE AND LITTLE TIMMY! THEY...THEY COULDN'T... =CHOKE!=
MAYBE THEY'LL GIVE ME A BREAK! JUST THIS TIME...I'LL NEVER MAKE ANOTHER BET...AS LONG AS I LIVE!

MEANWHILE, IN AN EXECUTIVE SUITE IN DOWNTOWN KANSAS CITY, YET ANOTHER DRAMA BEGINS TO UNFOLD...
HOW MANY TIMES DO I HAVE TO TELL YOU, LESTER? PUT THE ROD AWAY!
YOU BEEN SEEING TOO MANY OLD BOGART MOVIES LATELY!
NO MORE SHOOTING FOR US! MITCH HACKETT IS GOING INTO THE BIG TIME!
SCHOOL IS OUT! RIGHT, BABY!
WHATEVER YOU SAY, MITCH!


WELL, THAT'S WHAT I SAY! THE GOOD TIMES ARE COMING! FIRST THING WE DO IS PICK UP A PACKAGE OF MONEY---IN VEGAS!
AND WHILE WE'RE IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD, WE'LL CELEBRATE MY NEW POSITION WITH THE SYNDICATE! HUH, BABY?
OH, YEAH! YOU, TOO, LESTER!
YEAH! IT'LL BE A RELIEF TO PACK IN ALL THOSE NICKEL-AN'-DIME BETTORS!
SO STICK WITH HACKETT ...HE'S HEADING RIGHT TO THE TOP!
RIGHT, BABY?
RIGHT, MITCH!
HEY! WHAT'S WITH YOU?

AT THAT MOMENT, IN NEW YORK...
50TH
MADISON AVE.
ONE WAY
PUBLIC SHELTER
...RAIN! THEY SAY IT MAKES YOU BEAUTIFUL, NICK!
THEN, YOU MUST HAVE BEEN BORN IN IT, VAL!
I SPENT HALF THE WAR IN IT! DIDN'T DO A THING FOR ME!
DID I TELL YA, WE'RE CHECKIN' OUT THAT GIZMO I FOUND? NOTHIN' BUT A ROUND CARD WITH THE SIGN OF SCORPIO ON IT!
SHIELD'S RUNNIN' IT THROUGH THE FBI AND INTERPOL NOW!
HEY! GOTTA GET BACK TO HQ AN' WRAP UP A COUPLA LOOSE ENDS!
TOO BAD! A GIRL GETS LONESOME IN THE BIG CITY! CAREFUL IN THE CROSSTOWN TRAFFIC!

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

MARVEL SUPER-HERO T-SHIRTS

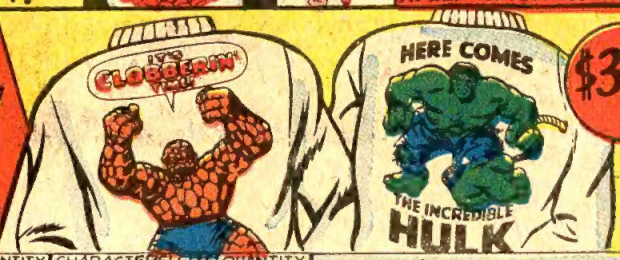
only $1.60 EA.

PLUS 25¢ FOR POSTAGE AND HANDLING

IT'S BRAND NEW! A CATACLYSMIC... CAPTAIN MARVEL T-SHIRT!

WRITE SIZE IN COUPON BELOW
YOUTH – MEDIUM, LARGE
ADULT – SMALL, MEDIUM, LARGE

MARVEL SWEAT SHIRTS



$3.15 EA.

CHARACTERS	SIZE	QUANTITY	CHARACTERS	SIZE	QUANTITY
FANTASTIC FOUR			SPIDER-MAN		
THE HULK			IRON MAN		
AVENGERS			THOR		
CAPT. MARVEL					

TOTAL $

PLEASE SEND _____ *THING* SWEAT-SHIRTS
PLEASE SEND _____ *HULK* SWEAT-SHIRTS

CHECK SIZE
THING ☐ YOUTH ☐ ADULT
HULK ☐ YOUTH ☐ ADULT

TOTAL $

PLEASE ADD 25¢ PER ITEM FOR POSTAGE AND HANDLING. PRINT CAREFULLY. ADD 20¢ EXTRA FOR EACH CANADIAN AND EUROPEAN ORDER. ALLOW 3 TO 4 WEEKS FOR DELIVERY.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PLEASE – SEND NO CASH! CHECK OR MONEY ORDER ONLY, TO:

MARVEL COMICS GROUP, DEPT. AJ 625 MADISON AVE., NEW YORK, N.Y. 10022

The MERRY MARVEL MARCHING SOCIETY ANNOUNCES A NIFTY NEW MEMBERSHIP KIT!

JUST FEAST YOUR BABY-BLUES ON WHAT ALL NEW MEMBERS ARE GONNA GET...

AN ALL NEW MEMBERSHIP PIN...AN OFFICIAL RECORDING OF THE MMMS SONG...SWINGIN' STICKERS OF EIGHT MARVEL HEROES...A NUTTY NEW NOTE PAD...A MAGNILOQUENT MARVEL MINI-BOOK... A MIND-SNAPPING MARVEL PENCIL... A MAJESTIC MMMS CERTIFICATE, AND YOUR OWN MUNIFICENT MEMBERSHIP CARD.

NOW, THIS IS THE PART THAT'LL REALLY KNOCK YOU FOR A LOOP! YOU GET ALL THESE GROOVY GOODIES FOR THE PALTRY SUM OF... $1.00

OKAY, MADMEN...HERE'S MY HARD-EARNED $1.00 WHICH I'M SENDING YOU AT: M.M.M.S., MARVEL COMICS GROUP, 625 MADISON AVE., N.Y.C., N.Y., 10022

MAKE ME A MAGNILOQUENT MERRY MARCHER AND RUSH ME MY KRAZY KIT!

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____

ZIP _____ PLEASE: SEND NO CASH! CHECK OR MONEY ORDER ONLY!

NOTE TO PRESENT MEMBERS: WE HAVEN'T FORGOTTEN YOU FRANTIC ONES. WE'RE OFFERING *YOU* THE NEW KIT AT THE SPECIAL PRICE OF 75¢! (OUR OWN COST.) SO JUST SEND YOUR MEMBERSHIP NUMBER WITH THE COUPON TO KEEP YOURSELF MARCHING IN STEP!

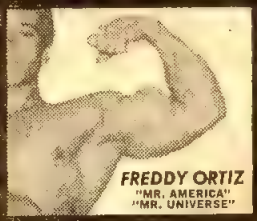
Send For Free Information On How

YOU, TOO, CAN OWN A POWER-PACK BODY

Like These Weider Pupils and Champions!

LARRY SCOTT
"MR. AMERICA"
"MR. UNIVERSE"

Today "Mr. Olympia" winner—Larry stands 5' 7", weighs 205 lbs. and has a pair of 20" arms! He is considered one of the world's best-built men—but he was a 124-lb. weakling before mailing the coupon! This Can Happen To You Too!

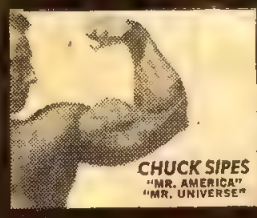


FREDDY ORTIZ
"MR. AMERICA"
"MR. UNIVERSE"

Winner—Freddy stands 5' 5", weighs 185 lbs. of rock-hard muscle. His arms measure 19" and he is considered the best-built short man in the world. Yet, he was a 115-lb. skinny weakling before sending in the coupon! Why Not You?

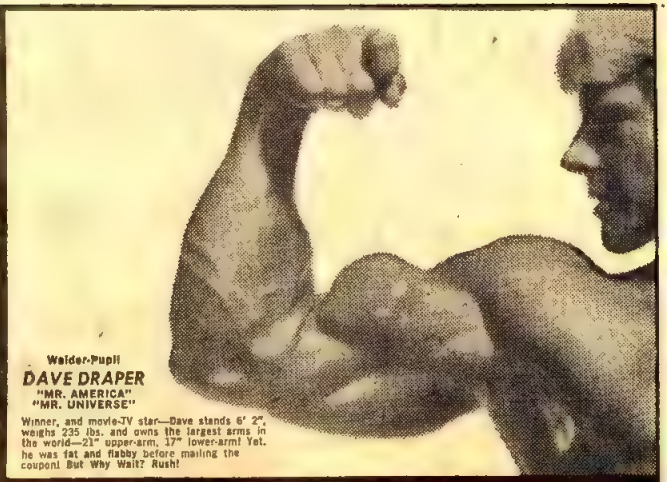
RICKY WAYNE
"MR. EUROPE"
"MR. UNIVERSE"

Winner—Ricky is 5' 8" weighs 190 lbs. of muscle. His arms measure a full 18½", and he is considered the best-built man in Europe today. He weighed a puny 123 lbs. before sending this coupon! And it Can Happen To You!



CHUCK SIPES
"MR. AMERICA"
"MR. UNIVERSE"

Winner—Chuck stands 6', weighs 225 lbs., and has a pair of 20" arms—among the strongest in the world! He was a 141-lb. weakling before sending in the free coupon! Now How About You?



Weider-Pupil
DAVE DRAPER
"MR. AMERICA"
"MR. UNIVERSE"

Winner, and movie-TV star—Dave stands 6' 2", weighs 235 lbs. and owns the largest arms in the world—21" upper-arm, 17" lower-arm! Yet, he was fat and flabby before mailing the coupon! But Why Wait? Rush!

FREE! MUSCLE COURSE THAT CAN ADD 3 INCHES TO YOUR ARMS *FAST!*

...AND MAKE YOU INTO AN ATHLETIC VIRILE HE-MAN!!

In half the time, with twice the ease, in the privacy of your own room, in just a few minutes a day, I will, through my "TRIPLE-PROGRESSION COURSE" that I want to send you FREE, guarantee that virtually overnight, you will experience a muscle-building miracle! Before your eyes you'll slap on inches of steel-hard muscles to your pipe-stem arms, pack your chest with power and size, give yourself life-guard shoulders, dynamic, speedy, athletic legs. Add jet-charged strength to every muscle in your body. I don't care if, today, you own the scraggiest, flabbiest, skinniest or funniest-looking body, whether you're tall or short, young or not-so-young, skinny or fat, office-worker, laborer, school-boy or businessman, I must make a new, virile he-man out of you—with handsome muscles bursting out all over! They will ripple with power, vibrate with energy! And for the fist time in your life, men will envy your body—women admire it, because at last you will own a body that brings you fame instead of shame! What I did for Dave Draper "Mr. Universe" winner, and for hundreds of other champions since 1936, I am ready to do for you! A-C-T-I-O-N is the key to strength! Fill out the coupon below NOW! Rush it to me—and in hours, with no charge to you—at my own expense, you too, like Dave Draper did, will start putting an end to your weakness! You have nothing to lose but your weakness! ACT NOW!—SUPPLY IS LIMITED!

THIS GIANT 32 PAGE COURSE

ABSOLUTELY FREE!

WRITE TO: JOE WEIDER Dept. 83-48G
TRAINER OF CHAMPIONS SINCE 1936,
531-32nd Street, Union City, N.J. 07087

Dear Joe: Shoot the works! I am saying YES to becoming a New Man! Rush me your free Muscle-Building information which I can use right now at home to build a handsome and useful body

I enclose only 25¢ to cover the cost of handling and mailing. I am under no further obligation.

NAME_____

ADDRESS_____

CITY_____ STATE_____

ZIP CODE_____ AGE_____

(Please print clearly)

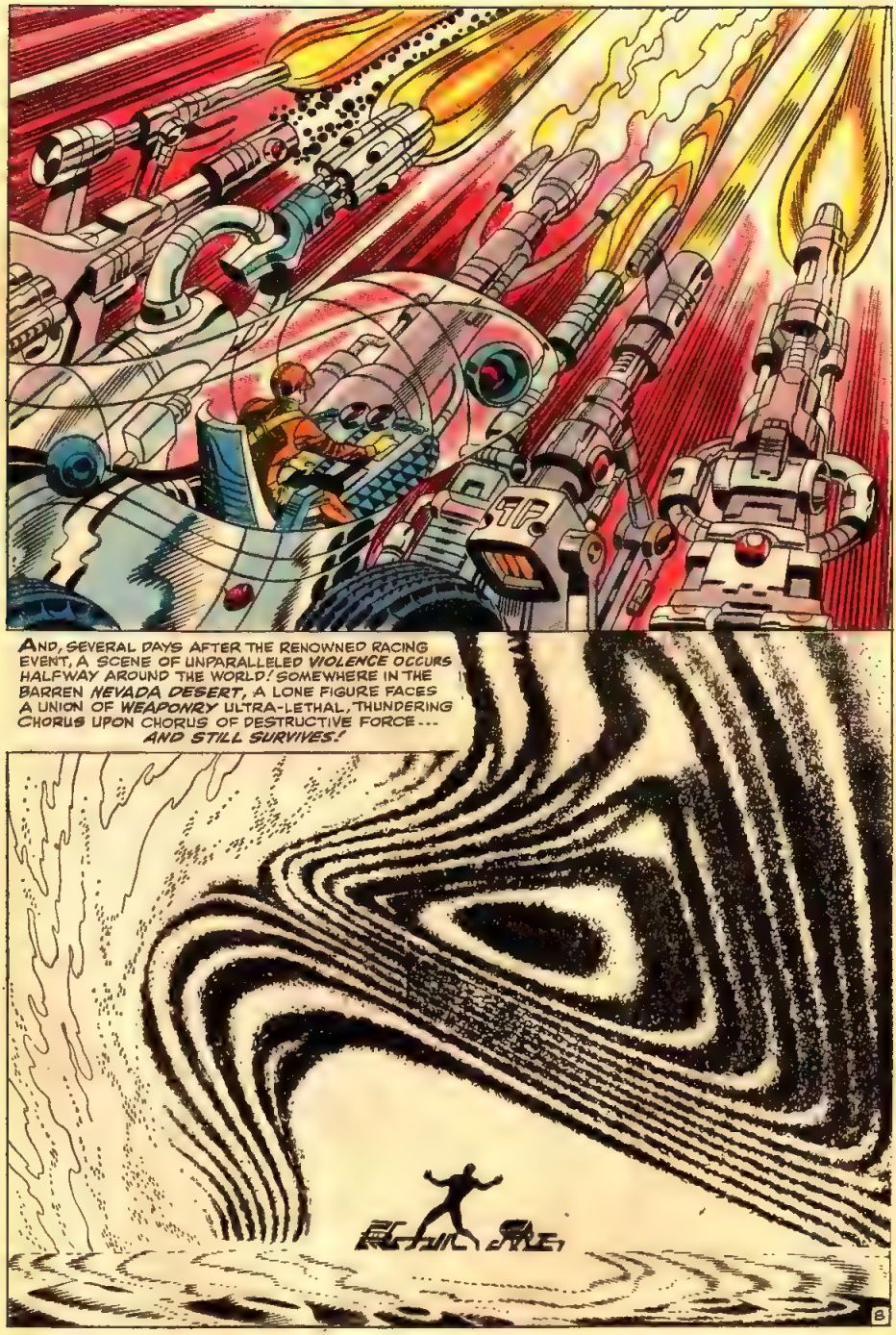
I have √ where I need more muscle:

I Want: ☐ Bigger Arms ☐ Larger Neck ☐ Deeper Chest
☐ Trim Waist ☐ Athletic Legs ☐ Added Weight
☐ Broader Shoulders ☐ More Endurance and Power

JOE WEIDER
Personal trainer of "Mr. America," "Mr. Universe" perfect men Mr. Canada" since 1936 — title winners since 1936 — and over 2,000,000 successful pupils the world over!

MAIL COUPON TODAY! NO OBLIGATION! NOTHING TO BUY!

ELSEWHERE, AT THE SELF-SAME INSTANT...
15
8
LOOKS LIKE A BAD ACCIDENT ON THE STRAIGHTAWAY... NUMBER FIFTEEN... TRYING TO PUSH CAR NUMBER EIGHT OUT OF FIRST PLACE! AND, AS THEY GO INTO THE FINAL LAP HERE AT THE MONZA AUTODROME, IT SEEMS AS THOUGH THE DYNAMIC LAMBERGHINI-POWERED CAR IS GOING TO MAINTAIN ITS LEAD POSITION!
SHELL
THERE GOES THE CHECKERED FLAG... IT'S ALL OVER... WITH NUMBER EIGHT TAKING THE VICTORY... COUNT JULIO SCARLOTTI!...
...AND HERE'S THE NEW CHAMP... CLAIMING HIS PRIZES FOR A BRILLIANT RACE!


AND, SEVERAL DAYS AFTER THE RENOWNED RACING EVENT, A SCENE OF UNPARALLELED VIOLENCE OCCURS HALFWAY AROUND THE WORLD! SOMEWHERE IN THE BARREN NEVADA DESERT, A LONE FIGURE FACES A UNION OF WEAPONRY ULTRA-LETHAL, THUNDERING CHORUS UPON CHORUS OF DESTRUCTIVE FORCE... AND STILL SURVIVES!
EL FUEGO

TARGET FURY TO WATCHDOG BASE ONE... CAN YA HEAR ME, DUM DUM?
THIS EPB G-SYSTEM * WORKS LIKE A CHARM! AIN'T GOT A SCRATCH ON ME... BUT MY EARS ARE RINGING LIKE A BLASTED FIRE BELL DURING A FOUR-ALARMER!
TOLD YA IT'D WORK! ALL WE'RE DOING NOW IS RECORDING ITS EFFECT ON THE HUMAN BODY!
WHO KNOWS... MEBBE SOMEDAY IT'LL PROTECT A WHOLE ARMY JUST LIKE IT KEPT YOU SAFE 'N SOUND!
HOW COME YER SO GOOD TA ME?
ONE MORE TO GO! HANG LOOSE, NICK!
WELL, LOOKS LIKE HE'S READY FOR THE FINAL TEST!
YOU'RE CERTAIN NOTHING CAN GO WRONG, DUGAN?
DON'T KNOW WHAT, COUNTESS! WE'RE HERE TO SEE TO THAT!
AN' ONCE THAT BARRIER'S FORMED, NOTHIN' CAN GET IN... AN' NOTHIN' CAN GET OUT, EITHER!
HOPE YOU'RE RIGHT, DUGAN! WE'VE NOTHING BIGGER BUT THE H-BOMB!
OKAY, TECHNO... FIRE THE MISSILE NOW!
1 2 3

* ENTROPE PHASE BARRIER GUARD SYSTEM! BUT KEEP IT TO YOURSELF, TRUE BELIEVER! NEVER KNOW WHEN ANY HYDRA AGENTS ARE SNOOPING AROUND! --SECURITY-MINDED STAN.

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

LOOK, FELLOWS!
You Can Win Your Choice of
Neat Prizes FREE Regularly
PLUS AS MUCH AS $1.00 to $5.00 CASH
EVERY WEEK!
HAND PHONE SET

If You're a Boy 12 Years Old or Older, You Can Be a Happy, Prosperous GRIT Salesman

Join over 30,000 boys who win dandy FREE Prizes and make as much as $1.00 to $5.00 and even more, selling GRIT to friends, neighbors, relatives and others, every week. Everyone is eager to buy GRIT from you at only 15¢ a copy, because it contains World News, Sports, Women's Features, Children's Page, Popular Comics, Games, Puzzles, Exciting Fiction.

GRIT Sells for 15¢ a Copy . . . You Keep 5¢ Profit!

Yes, 5¢ out of every 15¢ you take in is yours to keep. Sell only 20 copies a week, and you make $1.00 profit each week, $52.00 in a year . . . plus valuable Prizes you win FREE regularly! We'll help you get started now, in a profitable business of your own. Mail the Coupon TODAY!

Over 30,000 Boys Make Money and Get Dandy Prizes Without 1¢ Cost

We'll send you GRIT right away, by mail, along with many valuable selling helps. You pay ONLY for the copies you sell until you know how many to order. Like 30,000 other boys, 12 or older, you'll find selling GRIT is easy, fun—and profitable!

MAIL THIS COUPON TODAY!

If coupon is already torn out, print your name, address, age and date of birth and mail it to:

GRIT Department MC 48
Williamsport, Penna. 17701

GRIT PUBLISHING CO.,
Williamsport, Pa., 17701

PLEASE PRINT
Dept. MC 48

Send my first bundle of papers, selling helps and prize offers.

Name_____

Are You a Boy?_____ Age_____ Date Born_____ Year_____

In Care of_____

Street and No._____ R.F.D._____

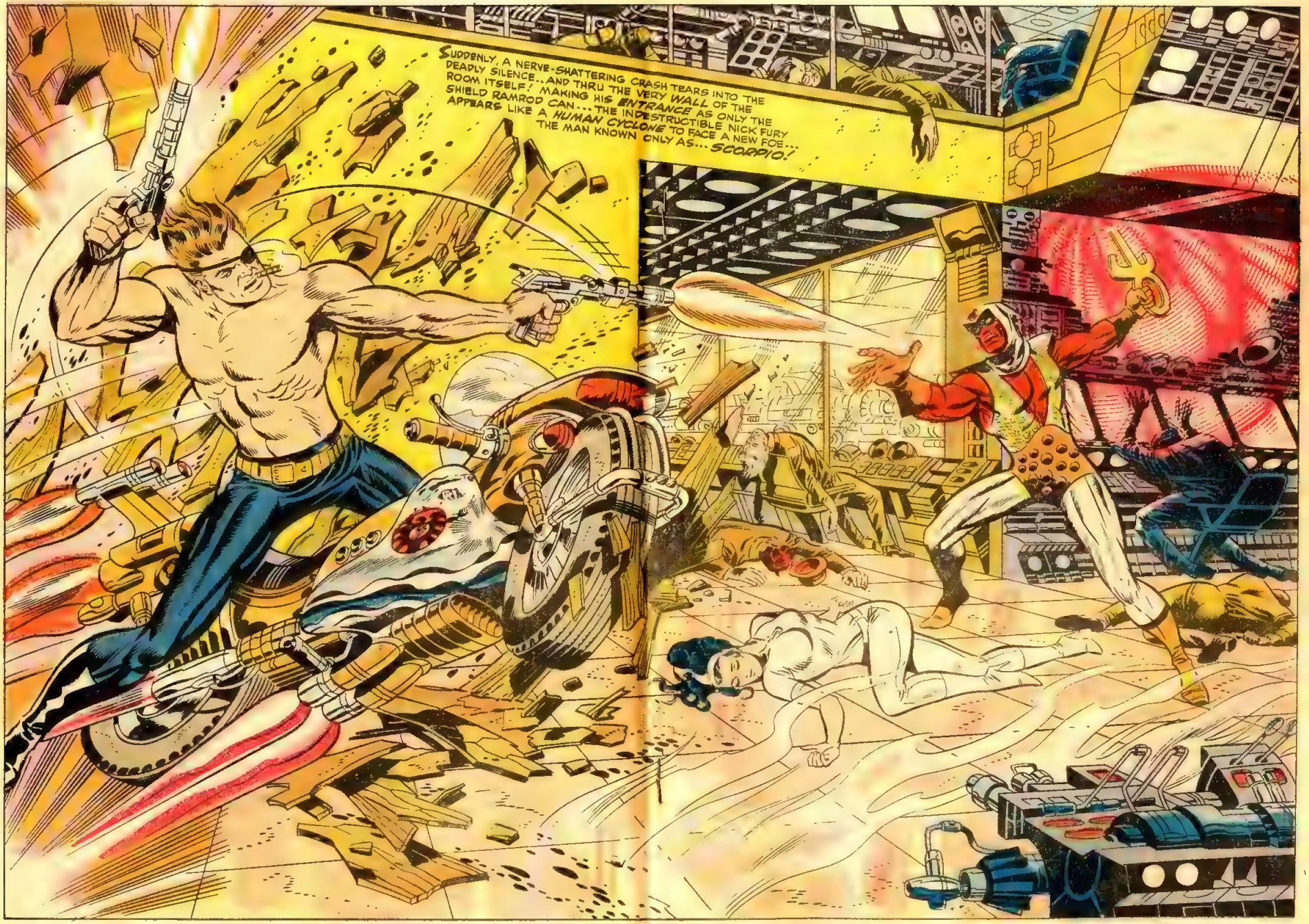
Post Office_____ State_____

Zip Code No._____

Print Your Last Name Plainly Here

OKAY! THE BIG ONE'S ON ITS WAY!
GIVES ME 'BOUT ELEVEN MINUTES TA RELAX BEFORE TARGET ZERO!
GOTTA THINK ABOUT THAT SCORPIO BIT ANYWAY!
REPORTS COMIN' BACK FROM OUR SOURCES! SCOTLAND YARD SAYS THEY SUSPECT HE'S AN ENTERTAINER ...IN EUROPE!
INTERPOL THINKS HE'S A BANKER FROM DRESDEN! F.B.I.... MUD... EACH ONE SAYS HE'S SOMETHIN' ELSE!
COULD BE ALL OF 'EM! OR MEBBE NONE OF 'EM!
SO WE STILL DON'T KNOW... WHO IS SCORPIO!
GUESS WE'LL HAVETA KEEP CHECKIN'! HEY! THAT BREEZE... FEELS GREAT!
HUH! WHAT IN THE... THERE CAN'T BE A BREEZE ...UNLESS... THE EPB'S SHUT OFF!
DUGAN! SOMETHIN'S GONE HAYW... DUM-DUM... TALK TO ME, PAL! I CAN'T HEAR YOU... ANY OF YOU!
NO USE...THE LINE'S DEAD...ON THEIR END!
THIS AIN'T NO ACCIDENT!
AN' WITHOUT THE BARRIER, I'LL BE NOTHIN' BUT A PILE 'A DUST!
FURY TA ARMAMENT UNIT TWO! HEADS UP, YOU CLOWNS, AN' DON'T ASK QUESTIONS!
THERE'S A ROCKET SLED FOR TESTIN' ASTRONAUTS NEAR US! FIND OUT WHOSE BABY IT IS...AN' GET IT MOVIN' BY REMOTE CONTROL!
IN EXACTLY TEN MINUTES!
GOTTA GET OUTTA HERE... BUT HOW? CAN'T OUTRUN A MISSILE...
BUT...YEAH! IT MIGHT NOT WORK, BUT I GOTTA TRY IT!
SOMETHIN' HAPPENED TO UNIT ONE IN VEGAS! BUT IT WAS CRAWLIN' WITH SHIELD AGENTS!
NUTS! C'MON, FURY, GET YER TAIL MOVIN'!
YA GOT ABOUT TWO AN' A HALF MILES TO COVER...ACROSS DESERT YET! C'MON, FURY MOVE!

THE SLED... IT'S STARTIN' UP... MOVE!
GOTTA MAKE IT... ONLY CHANCE TA GET FAR ENOUGH AWAY... IN TIME... MOVE...
LUNGS... BURNIN' UP... KEEP GOIN', FURY... MOVE!!
RRRRR
NOW, IF ONLY THIS THING GETS ME AWAY BEFORE THE BLAST... HUH? TIME'S RUN OUT... WHY DON'T IT GO OFF?
CAN'T HOLD ON... TOO MUCH SPEED... RIPPIN' ME OFF!
NEVER... MAKE IT BACK NOW!
A SHORT WHILE LATER, AT A SHIELD UNIT IN LAS VEGAS...
NONE OF THEM ARE MOVING... MY SLEEP FUMES HAVE DONE THE JOB PERFECTLY!


SUDDENLY, A NERVE-SHATTERING CRASH TEARS INTO THE DEADLY SILENCE..AND THRU THE VERY WALL OF THE ROOM ITSELF! MAKING HIS ENTRANCE AS ONLY THE SHIELD RAMROD CAN... THE INDESTRUCTIBLE NICK FURY APPEARS LIKE A HUMAN CYCLONE TO FACE A NEW FOE... THE MAN KNOWN ONLY AS... SCORPIO!

YOU! ALIVE! AGAIN! IT APPEARS AS THOUGH SCORPIO MUST KILL YOU STILL ANOTHER TIME!
WHAT... WHAT'S HE DONE? ARE THEY... NO... VAL'S BREATHIN'! GOTTA STALL FOR TIME, MEBBE I CAN GET HER OUTTA THE WAY AN' DECOY HIM TOO!
STAND RIGHT WHERE YA ARE, CREEP! ONE MOVE AND YER DEAD!
HEY! THIS PLACE REEKS OF GAS! THAT'S HOW HE TOOK OVER!
NOT WHILE I HOLD THE KEY TO THE ZODIAC, FOOL!
BEHOLD, AS I SUMMON SOLAR FORCE BEYOND BELIEF...
SO THAT YOU MAY MAKE TRUE MEASURE OF THE VENGEANCE OF SCORPIO!
THIS TIME THERE IS NO ESCAPE, FURY! THE PARABLE OF DOOM HAS BEEN SPOKEN!
THE GUY'S A BLASTED PSYCHO!
IF IT HADN'T BEEN FOR THAT ROCKET SLED, I'D BE COOKED BACK IN THE DESERT NOW!
GOTTA HAND IT TO UNIT TWO... HAD THAT JET CYCLE JUST WAITIN' FOR ME!
14

MEANWHILE, IN A NEARBY PALACE OF CHANCE, LADY LUCK BEGINS TO DEAL THE FINAL HAND OF THE GAME...
GOLDEN NUGGET
GAMBLING HALL
BINGO
SLOTS
HERE GOES MY LAST CHIP...ON NINETEEN RED!...WELL, THAT WAS IT...I'M COMPLETELY WIPED OUT...BUSTED! NO OTHER CHOICE NOW... MUST GO THROUGH WITH MY PLAN...
...TO STICK-UP A TELLER! COULDN'T EVEN GET A REAL GUN...JUST A LOUSY FAKE, BUT IT'LL DO...HAVE TO GET THE CASH SOMEHOW...ANYTHING TO KEEP THOSE HOODS OFF MY BACK...AWAY FROM MARIE AND THE BABY!
HACKETT! HEY...YOU! HACKETT!
HARDLY RECOGNIZE YOU WITH THE GLASSES, BABY!
HERE...THIS IS IT, HACKETT! TWO HUNDRED THOUSAND, NICE N' NEAT!
TAKE IT AND SPLIT, MAN! LIKE WE SHOULDN'T BE SEEN TOGETHER...AN' NO QUESTIONS, HUH?
AND MOMENTS LATER, COMIC FLIP MASON LEAVES, ALMOST BRUSHING SHOULDERS WITH THE MAN HE FEARS MOST IN THE WORLD...A MAN WHO DOESN'T EVEN KNOW HE EXISTS...YET...
I MUST BE DREAMING! HE'S MISTAKEN ME FOR SOMEONE ELSE!
ALL MY PROBLEMS ANSWERED! THIS MUST BE MY LUCKY DAY!
'SCUSE ME, FELLA! MY NAME'S HACKETT...MITCH HACKETT! YOU THE GUY I'M SUPPOSED TO SEE ABOUT THE PICK-UP?
WHAT'RE YOU TRYING TO PULL, CRUSOE... SOME KINDA DOUBLE-CROSS?
YOU SUPPOSED TO BE A WISE-GUY? I JUST GAVE IT TO YOU TWO MINUTES AGO!
WHAT'S HE DOIN' BACK? COULD HE HAVE SEEN THAT BOMB RIG INSIDE?
LOOKS LIKE I'M GOING TO HAVE TO TEACH YOU A LESSON, PUNK!
15

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

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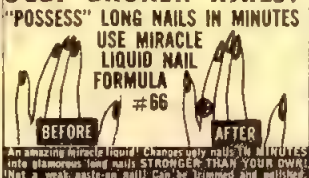

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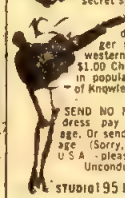

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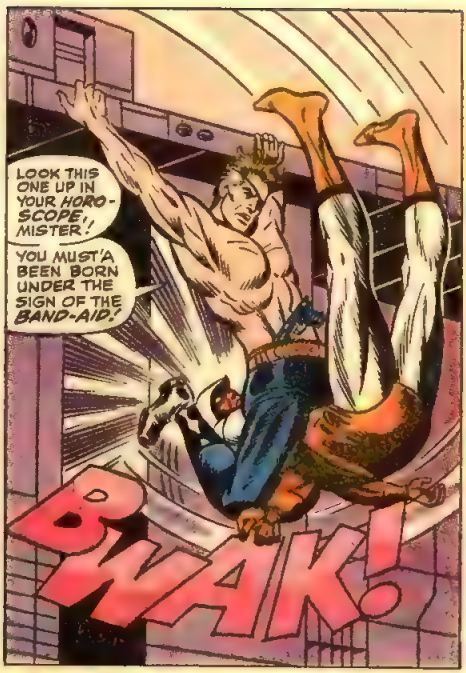
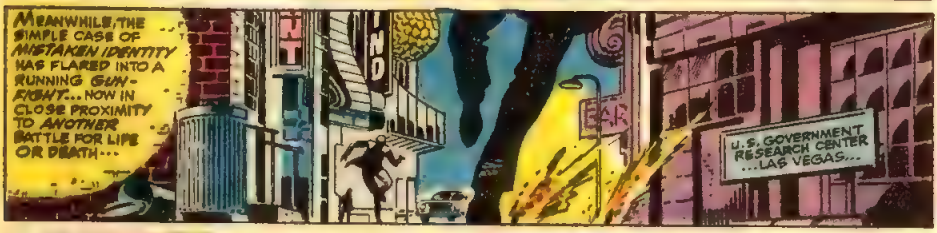
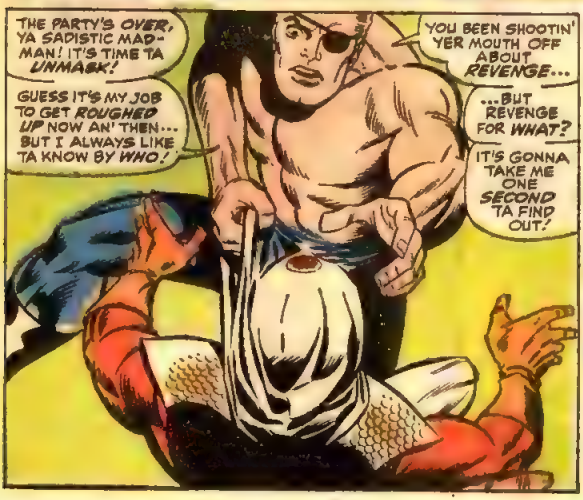
AND, AS THE TWO GUNMEN BEGIN THEIR OWN PERSONAL WAR, ANOTHER PAIR OF PROTAGONISTS PREPARE FOR THE FINAL SHOWDOWN...
VAL'S SAFE... LOOKS LIKE IT'S UP TO ME NOW...
THE VENGEANCE OF SCORPIO HAS REACHED ITS CONSUMMATE MOMENT. NOW, WHILE HE LIES STUNNED, WILL I FULFILL MY MALEVOLENT OATH, SWORN IN BLOOD---TO KILL NICK FURY!
KUNCH!
YOUR MOMENTS ARE NUMBERED, FURY---SO--
ARRGH!
HEY, SCORPIO! IF IT'S STARS YA WANNA SEE, HOW 'BOUT THESE?
SCORPIO IS WELL-VERSED IN THE WAYS OF ACROBATICS! YOU'LL NOT FIND ME AS VULNERABLE AS YOUR OTHER ADVERSARIES. UNDERSTAND?
ROK!
UNNGG!
DIDN'T THINK ...HE'D BE GETTIN' UP... AFTER THAT!
16

THAT DID IT... HE'S BUCKLING LIKE A STRAW IN THE WIND!
W-WHA...?
HE'S SWINGING BACK ...PINNING MY ARMS LIKE A VISE!
I THOUGHT HE WAS FINISHED!

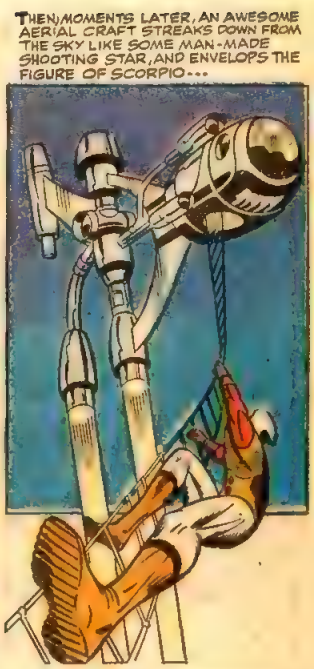

LOOK THIS ONE UP IN YOUR HORO-SCOPE, MISTER!
YOU MUST'A BEEN BORN UNDER THE SIGN OF THE BAND-AID!
BWAK!

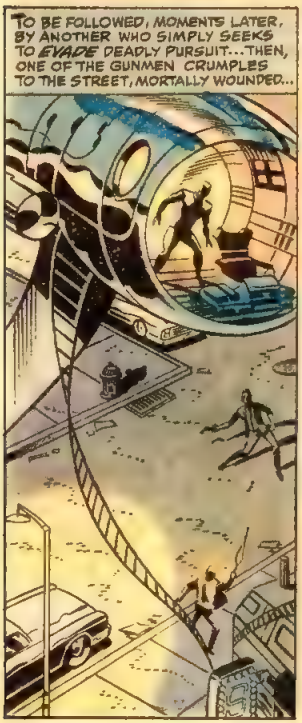

MEANWHILE, THE SIMPLE CASE OF MISTAKEN IDENTITY HAS FLARED INTO A RUNNING GUN-FIGHT... NOW IN CLOSE PROXIMITY TO ANOTHER BATTLE FOR LIFE OR DEATH...
U.S. GOVERNMENT RESEARCH CENTER ...LAS VEGAS...


THE PARTY'S OVER, YA SADISTIC MAD-MAN! IT'S TIME TA UNMASK!
GUESS IT'S MY JOB TO GET ROUGHED UP NOW AN' THEN... BUT I ALWAYS LIKE TA KNOW BY WHO!
YOU BEEN SHOOTIN' YER MOUTH OFF ABOUT REVENGE...
...BUT REVENGE FOR WHAT?
IT'S GONNA TAKE ME ONE SECOND TA FIND OUT!

THEN, AS THOUGH DESTINY WERE CONTROLLED BY THE HAND OF SCORPIO HIMSELF, A STRAY BULLET HITS FURY A SPLIT SECOND BEFORE HE CAN REMOVE THE FIGURES PROTECTIVE COWL...

OBSERVE, FOOL! THE BATTLE IS NOT YET LOST! THE STARS HAVE NOT LIED! THEY PREDICTED YOU'D BE AT MY MERCY THIS VERY DAY!
STILL, THOSE GUNSHOTS... EACH INSTANT I REMAIN MAKES MY GETAWAY THAT MUCH MORE DIFFICULT!


THEN, MOMENTS LATER, AN AWESOME AERIAL CRAFT STREAKS DOWN FROM THE SKY LIKE SOME MAN-MADE SHOOTING STAR, AND ENVELOPS THE FIGURE OF SCORPIO...


TO BE FOLLOWED, MOMENTS LATER, BY ANOTHER WHO SIMPLY SEEKS TO EVADE DEADLY PURSUIT... THEN, ONE OF THE GUNMEN CRUMPLES TO THE STREET, MORTALLY WOUNDED...

AND, WITH HIS FINAL BREATH, GANGLAND KILLER MITCH HACKETT SQUEEZES OFF THE LAST SHOT IN HIS BRUTAL LIFETIME OF CRIME... A SHOT WHICH HITS AND PENETRATES A VITAL SPOT IN THE AIRCRAFT'S ENGINES...
NICK... YOU'RE HURT! I... I SAW WHAT HAPPENED... LIKE COMING OUT OF A FOG!
I'LL LIVE, VAL!
QUICK, OUTSIDE! ...GUNSHOTS... SCORPIO'S GETTIN' AWAY!
18.

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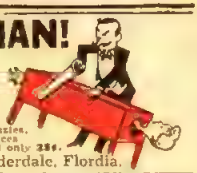

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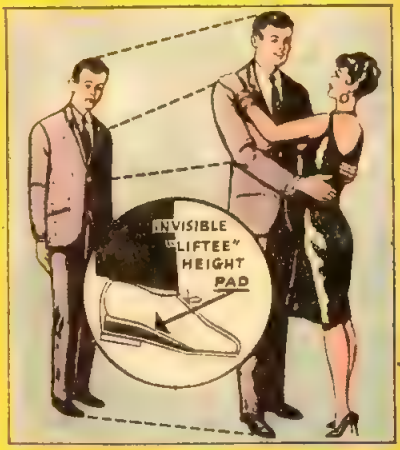

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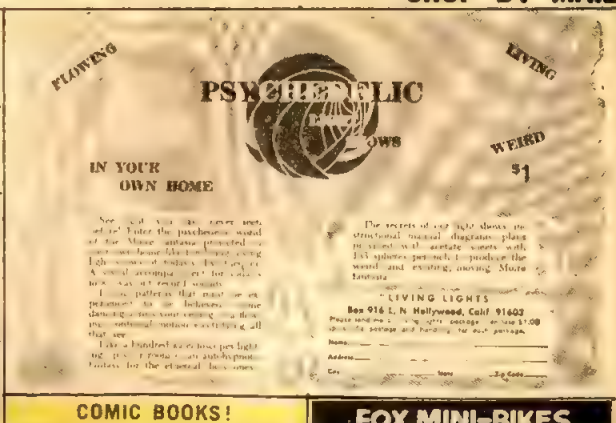

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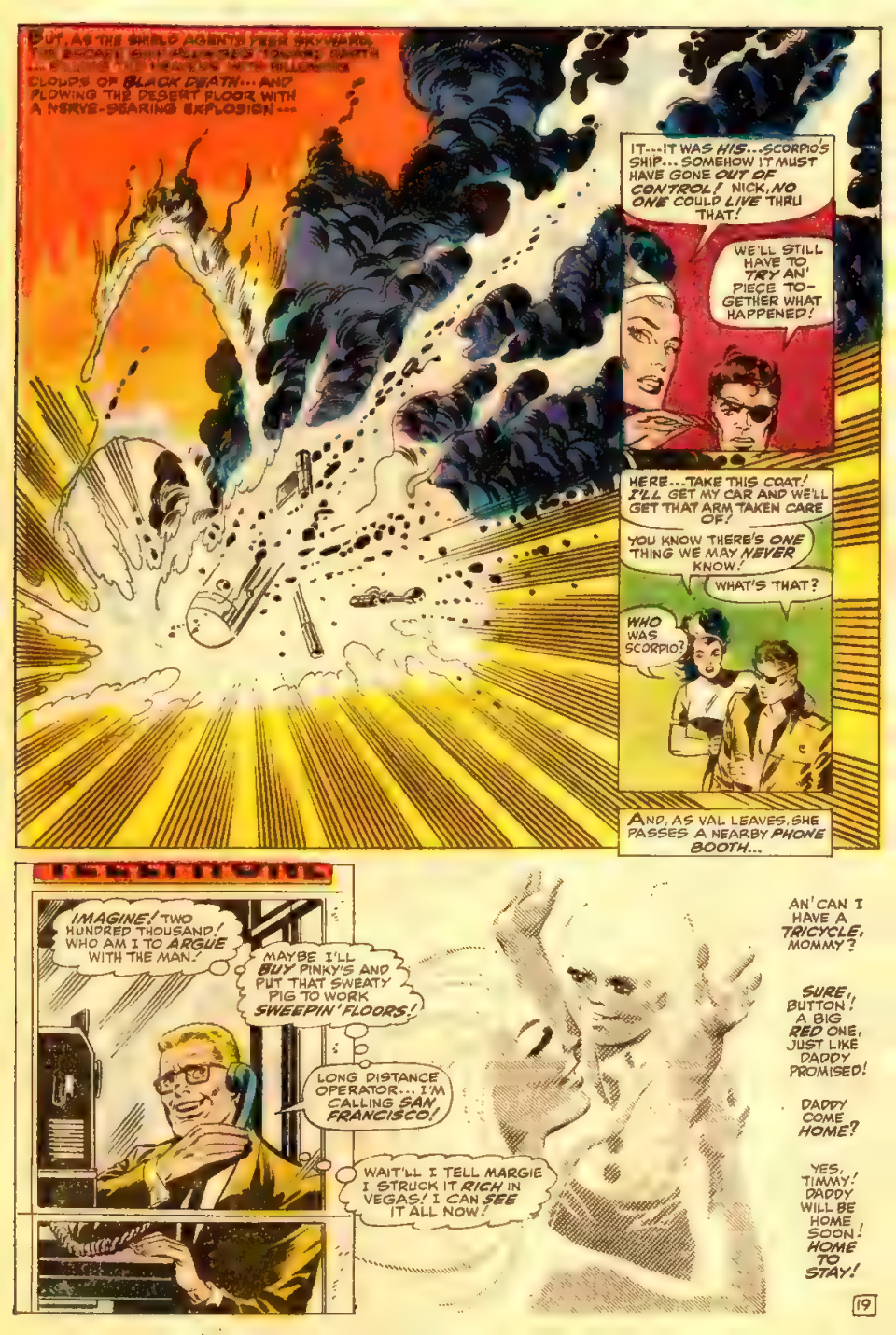
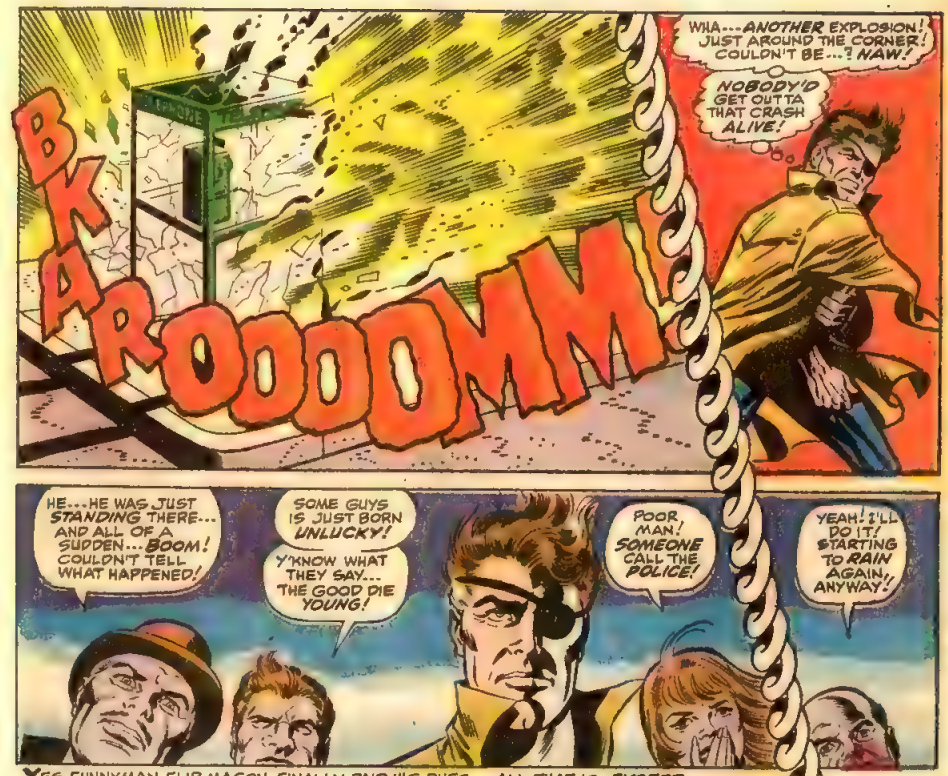

BUT, AS THE SHIELD AGENTS PEER SKYWARD, THE ESCAPE SHIP ALREADY SOARING EARTH-BOUND, IS HEADING INTO BILLOWING CLOUDS OF BLACK DEATH... AND FLOWING THE DESERT FLOOR WITH A NERVE-SEARING EXPLOSION...
IT---IT WAS HIS...SCORPIO'S SHIP... SOMEHOW IT MUST HAVE GONE OUT OF CONTROL! NICK, NO ONE COULD LIVE THRU THAT!
WE'LL STILL HAVE TO TRY AN' PIECE TOGETHER WHAT HAPPENED!
HERE...TAKE THIS COAT! I'LL GET MY CAR AND WE'LL GET THAT ARM TAKEN CARE OF!
YOU KNOW THERE'S ONE THING WE MAY NEVER KNOW!
WHAT'S THAT?
WHO WAS SCORPIO?
AND, AS VAL LEAVES, SHE PASSES A NEARBY PHONE BOOTH...
IMAGINE! TWO HUNDRED THOUSAND! WHO AM I TO ARGUE WITH THE MAN!
MAYBE I'LL BUY PINKY'S AND PUT THAT SWEATY PIG TO WORK SWEEPIN' FLOORS!
LONG DISTANCE OPERATOR... I'M CALLING SAN FRANCISCO!
WAIT'LL I TELL MARGIE I STRUCK IT RICH IN VEGAS! I CAN SEE IT ALL NOW!
AN' CAN I HAVE A TRICYCLE, MOMMY?
SURE, BUTTON! A BIG RED ONE, JUST LIKE DADDY PROMISED!
DADDY COME HOME?
YES, TIMMY! DADDY WILL BE HOME SOON! HOME TO STAY!


BKA ROOOOMM!
WHA---ANOTHER EXPLOSION! JUST AROUND THE CORNER! COULDN'T BE...? NAW!
NOBODY'D GET OUTTA THAT CRASH ALIVE!
HE---HE WAS JUST STANDING THERE--- AND ALL OF A SUDDEN...BOOM! COULDN'T TELL WHAT HAPPENED!
SOME GUYS IS JUST BORN UNLUCKY!
Y'KNOW WHAT THEY SAY... THE GOOD DIE YOUNG!
POOR MAN! SOMEONE CALL THE POLICE!
YEAH! I'LL DO IT! STARTING TO RAIN AGAIN, ANYWAY!

YES, FUNNYMAN FLIP MASON FINALLY PAID HIS DUES---ALL, THAT IS, EXCEPT...

THE SENSES-SHATTERING SURPRISES GO ON AND ON—!

ITEM! You knew we'd do it sooner or later! First, we gave CAPTAIN AMERICA and the incredible HULK their own mags, immediately followed by the cataclysmic appearances of IRON MAN and SUB-MARINER in their own pulse-pounding publications. Now, just as you've demanded, NICK FURY, AGENT OF SHIELD, and the ever-mystifying DR. STRANGE have been awarded their own individual mags — on sale at this very minute (if you can make your way thru the crowds)! Yep, once again munificent Marvel gives you the rare opportunity to acquire a pair of practically priceless collectors' item first editions — as well as the chance to follow the frenzied fabled foibles of two of your favorite far-out frolickers in their own fantasy-filled feature-length books! (If only the word "books" also began with an f, we'd have set some kind of nutty record! Oh well . . .) So, don't waste a minute! For a penny less than two-bits, you can latch onto two of the newest, most exciting titles in print today — the demon-drenched drama of DR. STRANGE, and hard-bitten hang-ups of NICK FURY, AGENT OF SHIELD! Darlin' Doc is drawn by Dapper Dan Adkins, while nitty-gritty Nick is tossed at you by Jaunty Jimmy Steranko! All that's left to say is GRAB 'EM, pilgrim! They're two more of Marvel's finest!

ITEM! Hang loose, hallowed one! You aint heard nothin' yet! At this very moment — even as you read these mind-expanding words — our bleary-eyed Bullpen brethren are busily creating full-length masterpieces featuring a whole NEW array of Marvel stars — power-packed sensations soon to be headlined in their own strips — all-time greats such as DR. DOOM — KA-ZAR — SILVER SURFER — and others too startling to mention! They'll all be yours in '68, just as we promised! Or, in the words of Fearless Forbush — "Who SAYS this isn't the Second Golden Age of Marvel!"

ITEM! We can't keep you in suspense any longer! It's time to unveil the final rank of Marveldom at last! You've already memorized our first five titles — RFO (Real Frantic One), a buyer of at least three Marvel mags per month — QNS (Quite 'Nuff Sayer), one who's had a letter printed within our pulsating pages — TTB (Titanic True Believer), he who hath won a No-Prize — KOF (Keeper of the Flame), one who recruits a newcomer to our ranks — and PMM (Permanent Marvelite Maximus), the supreme award for any who already possess the four preceding titles! And now, our special sixth category — FFF (Fearless Front Facer), a purely honorary degree, approved and awarded by Smilin' Stan and a carefully chosen committee, for devotion to Marveldom above and beyond the call of duty! There you have 'em, faithful one — the complete list of Marvel titles, with which you may sign your daily correspondence, endorse your Nobel Peace Prize, or engrave upon the back of your Phi Beta Kappa pin. Now, if only WE can remember which is which!

THE MIGHTY MARVEL CHECKLIST

Marvel-ous Mags On Sale Right Now!

NOT BRAND ECHH #8: Run for the hills, gang — he's back! None other than feeble Forbush-Man has returned, to tackle almost every superhero in sight! It's the whackiest, wildest adventure into hysteria you've ever howled at! And wait'll you see who poor Forbie has to fight!

FANTASTIC FOUR #75: We've had the presses running overtime, but we'll never satisfy the demand for this one! The Silver Surfer is hiding from Galactus in a strange new world — and no words of ours can describe the wonder that awaits you!

SPIDER-MAN #61: How can you win a battle and still come out the loser? Well, it might be hard for you or us — but you've gotta see the maddening end of Spidey's adventure with the Kingpin — and the pounding problem that now awaits him!

AVENGERS #52: The Panther arrives on the Avengers scene — just in time to be accused of murdering everybody's favorite Assemblers—and then, to top it all off, along comes—the Grim Reaper! Hooo boy! It's a mind-snapper from start to finish!

X-MEN #44: The high-flying Angel escapes from the clutches of Magneto and digs out to find help — only to be confronted by the most drastically different good-bad guy since the Silver Surfer! We call him . . . the Red Raven — but you're gonna call him — great!

DAREDEVIL #40: Trying to save the world from the Exterminator's dreaded T-Ray, ol' Hornhead himself falls victim to the weirdest weapon of all time! And that's just the way the Ape-Man, Bird-Man, and Cat-Man want it! No wonder we call it "The Fallen Hero!"

MIGHTY THOR #152: We'll never get ourselves out of this one! The pandemonium increases as Odin, Ulik, Loki, Balder, Sif, Karnilla, and the Destroyer — are all tangled up in the most colossally complicated plot since the Iliad!

CAPTAIN AMERICA #102: Well, it finally happened! The fearsome Fourth Sleeper has awakened—and now, just as the Red Skull planned, he sets out to destroy all civilization as we know it! And, while he's at it, Cap has his hands full with the evil Exiles!

INCREDIBLE HULK #104: After Asgardians and awesome aliens, you'd think an earth-born villain would be a pushover for ol' Green-Skin! But — not the rampaging Rhino! He's a brain-bustin' blast!

IRON MAN #2: Would'ja believe a vociferous new villain called . . . the Demolisher, who possesses all the peerless powers of Iron Man himself? If not, just latch onto this illustrious ish! If it doesn't make a believer of you — we give up!

SUB-MARINER #2: This is it! At long last the most anxiously awaited clash of the year takes place when Triton leaves the Inhumans' sanctuary to tackle Subby — and the seven seas will never be the same again!

MARVEL'S SPACE-BORN SUPER-HERO! CAPTAIN MARVEL #2: With America's greatest missile complex in danger of being obliterated, Captain Marvel must defeat a villain with the combined powers of the Fantastic Four — the Super Skrull!

DR. STRANGE *(PREMIERE ISH!)*: The Master of the Mystic Arts is finally in a mag of his own — and what more fitting way to kick off this stunning new series than with..."The Coming of Dr. Strange"? Amulet polishers everywhere — this one's just for you!

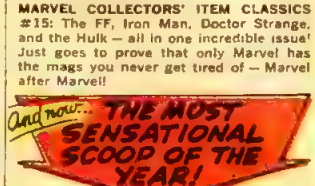
SGT. FURY #54: Because you demanded it, Izzy Cohen blazes into combat again in a death-defying dash for freedom through the steaming jungles of Burma! Does he make it? Only after 20 pages of block-bustin' battle-action will you find out!

CAPTAIN SAVAGE #3: With their men captured by the legions of Baron Strucker, Capt. Savage and his Japanese counterpart, Sgt. Joe Morita, must fight side by side for survival on Hydra's island fortress! A guts-and glory saga you won't forget!

MARVEL SUPERHEROES #14: An all-new, never-before-printed super-saga starring the one and only — SPIDER-MAN! All this plus more golden-age adventures of CAPTAIN AMERICA, SUB-MARINER, and the HUMAN TORCH, for a mere quarter? You'd better believe it!

MARVEL TALES #14: SPIDEY, GIANT-MAN, THOR, and the magnificent MARVEL BOY — almost more than mortal Marvelite can bear! It's a must for you glitzy groovers in this goofy generation!

MARVEL COLLECTORS' ITEM CLASSICS #15: The FF, Iron Man, Doctor Strange, and the Hulk — all in one incredible issue! Just goes to prove that only Marvel has the mags you never get tired of — Marvel after Marvel!



STAN'S SOAPBOX!

Okay, we admit it! We just can't keep a secret! We're so excited about our newest and most ambitious project that we've GOT to tell you about it or we'll just plain bust! Remember how we always tried to upgrade the image of comic magazines? Well, we're now about to take our biggest step towards realizing that goal! Starting next month, mighty Marvel will present an entirely new concept in illustrated adventure tales — a magazine as different from the ordinary comic as a guided missile is different from a spitball!

It'll be bigger than the mag you're now reading — and will be printed on far more expensive, high-quality paper. The cover will be a full-color painting, and the price will be 35¢! Also, since it's a new, larger size, some dealers may not display it with their comics, but rather among other magazines — so be sure to look for it carefully. And, if you don't see it, ask for it — demand it — cry for it!

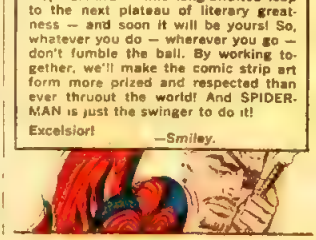
Yet, despite the fact that this sensational issue will be a turning point in magazine history, it will feature the same thrills, action, and spectacular surprises for which Marvel is famous! And the artwork — hooo boy! Just wait till you see those dazzling drawings; clearer, sharper, far more dramatic than you ever imagined any illustrated epic could be!

But now you're wondering about the title! Which character will be featured? You're hoping we selected the right one for so vital a test! Well, face front, flame-keeper! We think we've chosen the very same hero you yourself would have picked — possibly the most popular single fantasy character in the world today — none other than — your friendly neighborhood SPIDER-MAN!

That's all we can tell you now, 'cause we're still writing and drawing like crazy to make our deadline. But, while you're waiting for the big day, be sure to sock away three dimes and a nickel so that you'll have 'em when our 35¢ SPIDEY hits the stands. All of comicdom has been demanding this giant step forward — this long-awaited leap to the next plateau of literary greatness — and soon it will be yours! So, whatever you do — wherever you go — don't fumble the ball. By working together, we'll make the comic strip art form more prized and respected than ever thruout the world! And SPIDER-MAN is just the swinger to do it!

Excelsior!

—*Smiley.*



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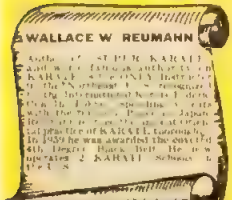

I spent 3 years in Japan learning the little-known Oriental art of KARATE, and was awarded the 4th Degree Black Belt symbol of the highest possible proficiency. Now I'm ready to show *you* every secret I learned—and I guarantee I'll make YOU into a KARATE Specialist within hours—or every cent you paid for my information will be refunded!

You don't have to attend either of my 2 schools where I train men like you and turn them into KARATE experts. No, I can show you how to practice KARATE in the privacy of your own home with only a few minutes of practice a day. I have jam-packed all I know about KARATE into SUPER KARATE, profusely illustrated and clearly explained.

In this book I take you step by step through the fundamentals of KARATE so that you understand clearly and immediately how these amazing principles operate to make you master of ANYONE you may meet, no matter how big he is or how much he weighs!

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With KARATE you can disarm an opponent rushing you with his fists, a broken bottle, a revolver, or any kind of bludgeon. You can turn an aggressor's attack into your advantage with only your bare hands, your arms and your legs.

What *would* you do if you were insulted by a bully? . . . or if 3 or 4 hoodlums passed remarks about your girl? . . . or if you were suddenly mugged from behind? . . . or if someone came at you with a baseball bat? If you're like millions of other Americans, you'd be absolutely helpless—and you'd be ashamed, humiliated, robbed, beaten, kicked—and pitiful—in the eyes of your girl or friends.

MASTER EVERY SITUATION!

With KARATE you can disarm and disable two, three and even four attackers. You can apply a simple pressure of your thumb and finger against any one of a dozen vital nerve centers of your opponent and watch his gun or knife fall from his limp hand while he himself sinks to the ground completely helpless and faint.

You can calmly watch a bully come at you with clenched fists—and see him sail over your head without having had any contact with him other than with the *sole of your shoe!* When you complete my instructions, you'll be ready for ANYONE—for ANY emergency—and you will feel supremely confident of being able to handle any situation perfectly.

In fact a knowledge of KARATE will turn you into a NEW MAN even if you never actually have to use it! For you will become self-assured and completely confident of yourself and your ability to handle yourself. You will walk with a determined and confident step . . . you'll look any man in the eye . . . and you'll walk the streets with the knowledge that NOTHING can frighten you—that you can deal with any man, any weapon, any situation—and that you can do all this with NO bodily contact!

Costs ONLY 99¢

You owe it to your own peace of mind—to your loved ones—to be able to defend yourself in these days when attack may come at any time from hoodlums, criminals and "vice guys". So mail coupon below NOW for my complete Instruction on KARATE—for the amazingly low price of only 99¢ plus 26c for postage and handling. If you and your friends don't say KARATE has made a new man out of you, every cent will be refunded! PS: if you order now—I'll include without extra charge your personal Membership Card in the American Karate Federation.

LIFE Magazine says "... bare-fisted violence"

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☐ I understand that by studying KARATE I am morally bound and obligated never to practice KARATE as an aggressor (only to defend myself) and will never abuse it.

DON'T YIELD, WRITE S.H.I.E.L.D.

c/o MARVEL COMICS GROUP, 625 MADISON AVE., N.Y., N.Y. 10022

Dear Stan and Jim,

"Behold the Savage Sky" proved to me once and for all why Jim Steranko is the only man for the Shield series. The invasion of Yellow Claw's lair was strictly out of sight. Pages 2 and 3 were beautiful. Check that third frame on page 7 — the hate was radiating right out of it. Claw reminded me of Fu Manchu. I've one gripe (not with the story itself) — of late we see Fury changing his ways. No longer is he unshaven, rarely do we see a stogey clenched between his teeth, and rarer still Fury running around in his street clothes. Don't get me wrong — I think his zip-suit is great, and it's a terrific device for him, but let's not overdo it. Let's cool it a bit and bring back his old character. You know, with Jim's cool plots and penciling, and fine work at the inking helm, how about turning Shield into a full-length book? 'Nuff said!

Ken Kahre, 2896 Poe Ave.
St. Louis 14, Mo.

The full-length book you've got, Kenny! Of course, we'll see Fury rumpled, wrinkled, and unshaven; but we kinda feel he digs his new look! After all, if you spent half a lifetime in a foxhole, you wouldn't mind dressing up for a change *either!* As for Jim being the only man to do Shield, we feel you're absolutely right! But, to be *really* honest, he's the only one who can get into Shield Headquarters to talk to Fury!

Dear Stan and Jim,

When you first drew a Shield story in issue #151, Jim, you did a fairly good job even though Jack Kirby did the layouts. I liked your art from the start. Since then the jolly one has left the layouts to you and you have gradually improved. For a few issues you experimented, but once you settled down on one style — zowee! Your layouts were, well, sensational! And I think you ought to give Jack some lessons in drawing machinery! And now we find out that you've been doing your own coloring! But Clay Quatermain stinks! You just gotta be kidding! He looks like Dudley Do-right! A little exaggeration on the Gaffer I don't mind, but if you're going to fill the mag with ridiculous caricatures like that, hoo-boy! By the way, how about an explanation of that trick the Yellow Claw pulled on page 10??!

Paul Dushkind, 290 Tamalpais Rd.
Fairfax, Cal. 94930

We're sure that all your questions about the Oriental Mastermind have been answered in the final fantastic chapter of Shield vs. The Claw! As for Clay Q., would you believe his family left him defenseless without his Right Guard!? All kidding aside, maybe we'll ask faithful Fury fans to give us the word on Controversial Clay . . . *Yes* or *No!* (And just watch some wise-guy write in "Maybe"!)

Dear Stan and Jim,

I just finished issue #163 and I must compliment you on the great work. The layout was great, as usual, and the art was fab. Now that I got that out, I just wanted to mention a character that you introduced — his name is Clay Quartermain. You guys must be going Hollywood or something. Don't get me wrong — he is kind of cool. He just looks vaguely familiar. In my opinion he appeared to resemble Burt Lancaster. I may be wrong but fill me in on the details anyway. Till everlovin' Nick Fury trades his cigars for a year's supply of soda pop, make mine Marvel!

Wayne Chimento, 576 E. 29th St.
Brooklyn, N. Y. 11210

Well, now that you mention it, Wayne boy, any resemblance between Shield Agent Clay Q. and movie star Burt Lancaster is purely *coincidental!* So help us, Elmer Gantry! *(Whew!)*

Dear Stan and Jim,

I'm writing to give credit where credit is due. And I must say Mr. Steranko deserves the highest praise and credit due. "And the Dragon Cried . . . Death!" is the best story to date that Jim has written! The plot and art were great, and Clay Quartermain is really a unique character. Please — more of Clay! I would like to know what A.I.M. was doing in the story. Will A.I.M. be playing an important role in coming issues? As for the cover, it was only exceeded by issue #161. By the way, does Jim do his own coloring? If so, it's the best I've seen.

Mike Hudak, 3160 W. 48th St.
Cleveland, Ohio 44102

Isn't that a coincidence, Mike! Jim thinks his coloring is the best he's seen, *too!* (But then, there's a vicious rumor going around that his own is the only coloring he *looks* at!) Seriously though, we've been trying to figure out what A.I.M. was doing in that story ourselves! But, about Clay, we're sure he'll turn up whenever Fury *needs* him. And if we know Fury, that probably won't take too long!

Now hear this! Please keep all letters no longer than ONE PAGE! Have mercy, mellow ones!

Dear Stan and Jim,

"When Comes . . . Black Noon!" is further proof, if any is required, that Jim Steranko is the greatest contribution to comic strip illustration and scripting since Stan Lee. He has raised a series which started as no more than a mediocre imitation of James Bond and has fleshed his characters with probing identities, intriguing conflicts, and padding — all this with the tiny subplots which often are the best part of any story. This fifth chapter in the Fury-san vs. Yellow Claw (or is it the sixth chapter at this point?) mirrors all of these improvements even if the story does seem to pass too quickly by. It seems that each chapter should have been at least 20 pages so that we could but see more of the lovely Suwan, so that our eyes might behold more of the mysterious girl named Val, and more, that we could even probe further the soul of the greatest villain to hit the comics stands in many, many moons. The Yellow Claw is not unlike, I suppose, many other villains flooding the comic-books these days except that even though his goals are the same — world domination, world enslavement, and such — Jim presents these goals and this villain with much more insight. Artwise, it just doesn't seem there isn't anything that he can't draw. He acts almost as if he is directing a suspense movie, juggling his panels like the change of angle of the camera. Fantastic! He is as good at drawing two barbers sitting in a barber shop discussing the daily trivia with reflections in the wall mirror as he is at having Fury confronting the Yellow Claw and Voltzmann. The Sky Dragon and the view of Manhattan were almost indescribable, as if Cinemascope had finally been intrigued to join Marvel. Great work, Stan and Jim!

Donald McGregor, 43 Wildwood Ave.
Providence, R.I. 02910

When we told Jim about your penetrating and perceptive letter he was speechless — and that's *something* for jaunty Jim! He does indeed tell his stories using filmic techniques: point-of-view shots, symbolic montages, shock cuts, dynamic close-ups and just about anything else he feels will tell his stories with impact! Frequently, we hear him mumbling that nobody ever notices the tricky shots he uses (he calls them "A" touches), such as the mirror shots and reflections you mention! All he could say was, "Send Don a first-class A-1 no-prize . . . and send it *before* Black Noon!"

Dear Stan and Jim,

The artwork done by Jim Steranko is really fine. Since his surname is not particularly common, I did some digging through my old magic magazines, in particular — GENII — a West Coast mag devoted to finger-flingers and professional magicians. In 1961, a young man known as "STERANKO" put out a book, "Steranko on Cards," which was hailed as a major effort in cardmanship. "Steranko" immediately gathered a following of those who delight in "take a card—any card" magic tricks. He was praised by professionals for his ideas and handling of a deck. In 1962, an entire issue of GENII was devoted to "Steranko's" card work and this was followed in 1964 by another issue featuring "Steranko's" research and work in escape magic, a la Houdini. "Steranko" began his work in this field as a kid and his background is remarkable. No first name was ever used in connection with "Steranko," the "enfant terrible" of magicians, wizard of handcuffs and a deck of cards. A resume of his interests included comments that he had worked for an ad agency (Madison Ave.), worked with carnivals, played lead sax in a rock band and had done work — as a comic-book illustrator! I think your "Jaunty Jim" Steranko and "Steranko" the card expert and master of escapes are one and the same. Did you know you had such a multi-talented celebrity in your midst? If I'm right, I'd appreciate your confirmation, and you can tell Jim I'm a charter member of the Steranko Fan Club. You could do a bio on this guy that would be a lulu. His life story makes better reading than any superhero you have come up with. Some guys get all the breaks!

Carle Germelman, Jr., Rt. #1, Box 64
Boyce, Va. 22620

Carle, buddy, you have more background on Mr. S. than Stan did when he *hired* him! After he reads your letter, he'll probably ask our leader for a raise! We always suspected Jim wasn't telling us everything. But why should we ever print his bio, when you just did it for us! By the way, if Jim ever needs an agent, could he *call* you?

Dear Stan and Jim,

As an Astro-Geophysicist with definite astronomical interests, I simply cannot let an error of such magnitude remain unmentioned. In STRANGE TALES #164 you stated that Nick Fury's spectro-unit converts light to energy and that energy is invisible. Now as any fifth grader should know, light is just one form of electromagnetic energy and it certainly is visible. I have been able to overlook some of your past scientific errors, but this one is just too much. Sheesh!! You could change the wavelength of light to the infrared. That would make it invisible to the unaided eye.

Jo Anne Baldwin, Sommers-Bausch Observatory
Univ. of Colorado, Boulder, Colo.

You're absolutely right, Jo Anne, Luv! We *told* our ever-loving artist/scripter that he should have finished the fifth grade! No wonder he goofed on that one! But Fury was tickled pink to hear that a girl Astro-Geophysicist took the time to write him a *note!* (Now, if only the redoubtable leader of Shield could *read!*)

Dear Stan and Jim,

I found issue #165 to be a . . . well . . . a . . . it was indescribable! The portrait of Fury was terrific and the art tremendous. There was a sharp incline in the art over #164. I was going to scream and yell but now all is forgiven. For the first time in the history of comics, you implied that a hero had combat fatigue — see page 6, panel 2. If you think you can escape without one question, forget it! Why don't your heroes ever bleed? Even in your last issue, Fury got punched out by the Claw with spiked knuckles and he didn't even get a scratch! Come on — tell us!

Steve Esperes, 3289 So. Dayfield Ave.
Milwaukee, Wisc. 53207

That's an easy one, Steve! Our howlin' heroes never bleed because the Comics Code doesn't *allow* them to! They just *suffer* a lot! Okay?

NEXT
A STRANGE LAND--
A STRANGER VILLAIN!
THAT'S ALL JAUNTY JIM'LL TELL US FOR NOW--BUT YOU CAN BET YOUR SHIELD STUN-GUN IT'LL BE A STERANKO SMASH!

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Some of the people the Famous Artists have helped

Carl Kock was an 18-year-old apprentice in a Chicago art studio when he enrolled. Today he prepares ads for such companies as General Motors and Firestone—has won five gold medals.

Howard Sanden of Minneapolis took the Course while still in high school. He is now a successful artist—recently he and his wife traveled through Europe and the Middle East on important art assignments.

Paul Sullivan enrolled at 14. His Famous Artists training helped him work his way through college.

Kathleen Gironda of Indiana, Pennsylvania, was an 18-year-old salesgirl in a department store. She still works for a department store, but now it's as an advertising artist and fashion illustrator.

With Famous Artists training James Ryan, formerly a clerk, has become an illustrator at Hughes Aircraft—and turns out a steady stream of well-paying free-lance artwork in his spare time.

Oregon housewife Helen Tryk lives 150 miles from the nearest big city. But she does fashion illustration, has her own studio, runs an art work shop, does portraits.

A plan to help others

It started over 18 years ago when a group of America's most successful artists—men like Albert Dorne, Norman Rockwell, Jon Whitcomb, Al Parker and Stevan Dohanos—met in New York City. They knew that all over America there were people who liked to draw who could be turned into good artists. Albert Dorne asked, "Why can't we give these people the training they need—including all the trade secrets and know-how we've learned over the years?"

He suggested a new kind of art school—a home study art school—that would give talented people the best professional art training, no matter where they live.

The famous artists agreed. Taking time from their busy careers, they created a remarkable series of art lessons covering every aspect of drawing and painting. They illustrated their lessons with over 5,000 "here's-how" illustrations. The lessons start from scratch and cover every skill a top artist needs. Finally, they developed a wonderful way to give each student personal correction and advice all through his training.

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Famous Artists Talent Test

To find others with art talent worth developing, the Famous Artists created a 12-page Talent Test. Thousands paid to take this test, but now the School offers and grades it free. Men and women who do well on the test—or offer other sufficient evidence of art talent—may enroll in the School. But there's no obligation. Simply mail the coupon below.

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George Giusti	Harold Von Schmidt
Peter Helck	Albert Dorne

Famous Artists School
Studio 5740
Westport, Conn. 06880

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